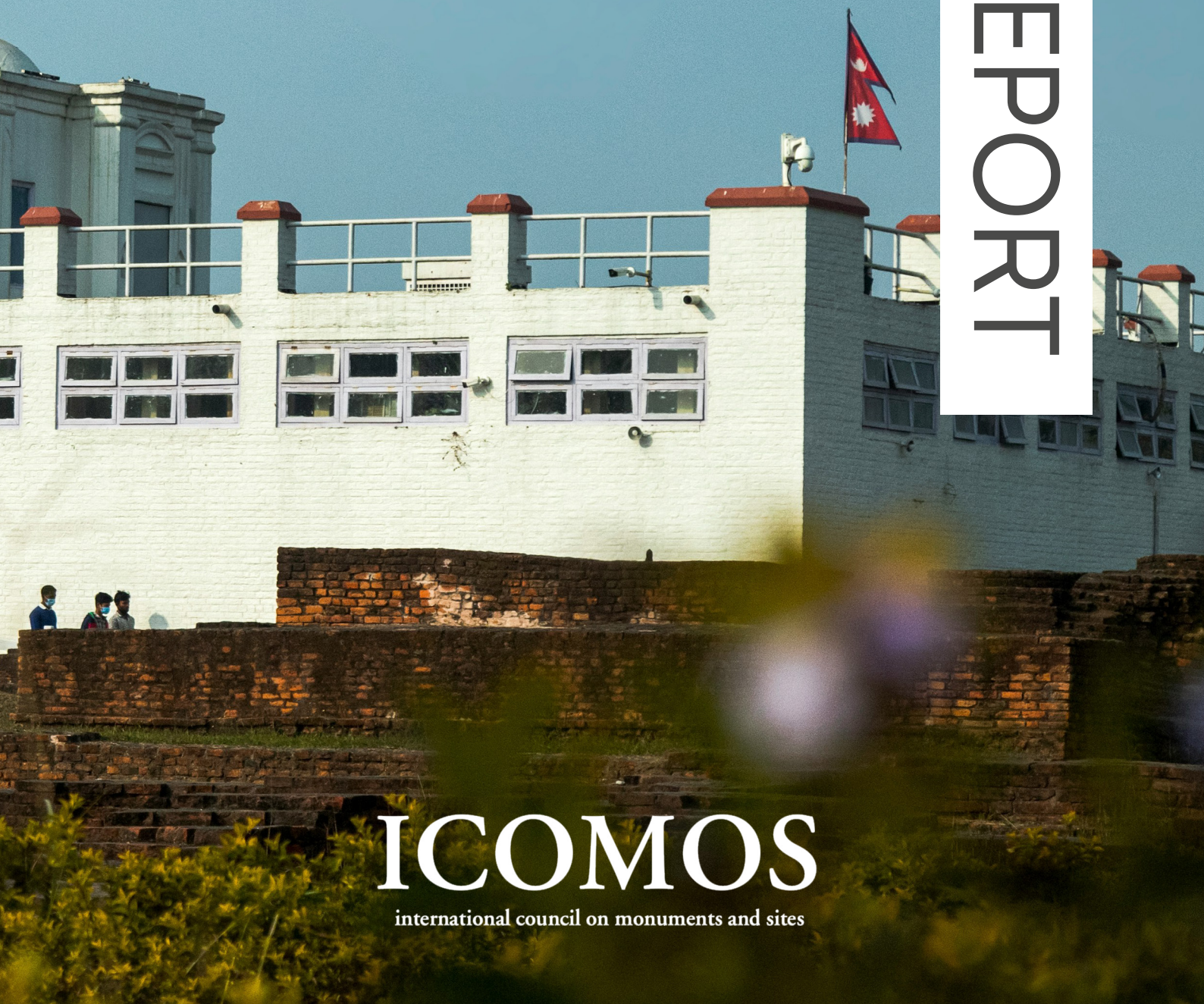


ANNUAL REPORT 2025



ICOMOS
international council on monuments and sites

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President’s letter

In 2025, ICOMOS strongly affirms a simple yet essential conviction: protecting cultural heritage means defending human dignity, the diversity of societies and the ability of peoples to imagine their future. In a world beset by crises, conflicts, climate change and social divisions, our mission has never been more urgent. This annual report bears witness to an organisation that refuses to give in to resignation, that chooses action, and that mobilises its expertise to transform challenges into drivers of resilience.

The year was marked by the celebration of ICOMOS’ 60th anniversary. This anniversary is far from a mere commemorative exercise: it compels us to act. It reminds us that our organisation was born out of an international drive to protect humanity’s most precious assets, and that today it must strengthen its tools, methods and alliances to respond to unprecedented threats. Our governance, our global network and our partners have demonstrated a remarkable capacity for adaptation, which is essential if we are to remain true to our mandate.

2025 was also a year of collective mobilisation. The General Assembly in Lumbini, the ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites celebrated around the world, and the launch of our new visual identity have strengthened our cohesion and visibility. These moments demonstrate that ICOMOS is a robust organisation, capable of reinventing itself to make its voice heard more effectively in the public debate. Our scientific commitment has intensified. Through PUBLICOMOS, our publications, our international conferences and capacity-building workshops organised across several continents, we have asserted a clear position: knowledge is an act of resistance in the face of forgetting, disinformation and destruction. Producing, sharing and debating knowledge lies at the heart of our identity.

Our role as official advisers to States Parties on the protection of World Heritage is of the utmost importance, and concerns each and every one of us. ICOMOS responses on the ground in Myanmar and Odesa, amongst others, as well as our Heritage Alerts, serve as a reminder that the protection of heritage is also a struggle. A struggle for peace, for cultural justice, and for the memory of communities suffering violence or the loss of their cultural reference points.

Finally, our increased presence in major international forums – Mondiacult, the G20, COP30 – demonstrates that cultural heritage is not a peripheral issue: it is a strategic player in ecological, social and economic transitions.

This report reflects a determined, united and visionary ICOMOS. I would like to thank everyone who, every day, brings this ambition to life. Together, we will continue to defend a heritage that belongs to no one, because it belongs to everyone and connects us beyond borders, cultures and crises.

Teresa Patrício
President

«Protecting cultural heritage means defending human dignity, the diversity of societies and the ability of peoples to imagine their future»

ICOMOS at a glance

The only worldwide NGO dedicated
to applying scientific techniques,
theories and methodology
to the conservation of cultural
heritage places.

Presence in

158

countries and territories,
with headquarters in Paris, France.

12,795

members

active in a diverse range of heritage fields
of which 317 institutional members

117

National
Committees

31

International
Scientific
Committees



Disclaimer: the borders shown on this map are based on United Nations geospatial data.

ABOUT ICOMOS



Celebrating 60 years

A timeline of our organisation's history



1972

UNESCO adopts the World Heritage Convention and ICOMOS becomes one of the Advisory Bodies playing a vital role in the evaluation and monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage sites, reviewing requests for international assistance and providing capacity building activities.



2025

ICOMOS celebrates 60 years since its founding, reaffirming its commitment to tackling contemporary challenges such as climate change, conflicts, and technological innovation, while integrating human rights and indigenous knowledge into heritage preservation worldwide.

1965

ICOMOS is formally established with the adoption of its Statutes and the establishment of its first Executive Committee.

1982

ICOMOS launches the International Day for Monuments and Sites for the first time. UNESCO adopts it one year later, in 1983.



Governance and International Secretariat



Members of the Board:

- Olufemi Adetunji (Nigeria)
Postdoctoral research fellow - architecture & digital humanities
- Adriana Careaga (Uruguay)
Academic, heritage education
- Doo-Won Cho (Republic of Korea)
Conservation science researcher
- Andreas Georgopoulos (Greece)
Academic, digital heritage documentation
- Zeynep Gül Ünal (Türkiye)
Academic, conservation and disaster risk management
- Marianne Knutsen (Norway)
Municipal administration heritage officer
- Celia Martínez Yáñez (Spain)
Academic, art history and cultural tourism
- Takeyuki Okubo (Japan)
Academic, disaster mitigation for historic cities
- Mariana Pereira (Portugal)
Archaeologist and PhD candidate
- Nupur Prothi (India)
Urban climate-sustainability expert
- Monica Rhodes (USA)
Historic preservation strategist
- Gráinne Shaffrey (Ireland)
Private practice conservation architect
- Ex-officio: Kerime Danis (Australia)
President of the Advisory Committee
Private practice heritage consultant

GOVERNANCE

General Assembly

The General Assembly holds supreme authority over ICOMOS and its activities. All members have the right to attend, and eligible members may vote on key matters such as statutory reports, accounts and budget, election of the Board, adoption of doctrinal texts, the ICOMOS General Programme, resolutions, and the conferral of Honorary Memberships.

Board

The Board is ICOMOS’ governing body, elected every three years by the General Assembly. It prepares and monitors the programme and budget, oversees National and International Committees and Working Groups, and ensures their alignment with ICOMOS’ aims. Between Board sessions, the Bureau — comprising the President, Secretary General, Treasurer, and five Vice Presidents representing each regional group — is responsible for overseeing programme implementation.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is composed of the Presidents of ICOMOS National Committees and International Scientific Committees. Its role is to advise and provide recommendations to both the Board and the General Assembly, ensuring that all regions and fields are represented and that the Board is kept informed of the latest developments.

The Presidents of the International Scientific Committees also form the Advisory Committee’s Scientific Council, which advises the Board on technical and scientific matters.

ICOMOS BOARD 2023-2026:

Bureau:

- Teresa Patrício, President (Belgium)
Academic, conservation architect
 - Jurn Buisman, Secretary General (Netherlands)
Museum director
 - Cyrill von Planta, Treasurer (Austria)
Private-practice heritage architect
- Vice Presidents:
- Riin Alatalu (Estonia, Europe)
Academic, heritage administrator
 - Leonardo Castriota (Brazil, Americas)
Academic, architect-urban planner
 - Chilangwa Chaiwa (Zambia, Africa)
Public administration conservation officer
 - HRH Dana Firas (Jordan, Arab States)
Heritage and sustainability policy advocate
 - Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Australia, Asia-Pacific)
Private heritage consultant

International secretariat

The ICOMOS headquarters located in Greater Paris, France, are the beating heart of ICOMOS’ daily operations. Under the supervision of the Director General, the staff team coordinates and oversees the implementation of ICOMOS’ General Programme and the decisions of the General Assembly, Board, and Bureau. ICOMOS’ multilingual and multicultural staff is organised into different units and teams covering the full breadth of ICOMOS’ international mission:

- Network Coordination and Administration team;
- World Heritage Evaluation Unit;
- World Heritage Advisory and Monitoring Unit;
- International Projects team;
- Documentation Centre;
- Communications;
- Finances.

Mission and values

The International Council on Monuments and Sites was created in 1965, the fruit of the numerous conversations between architects, historians and international experts that had been ongoing since the beginning of the century. These discussions led to the adoption of the Venice Charter in 1964, which set international guidelines for the conservation and restoration of historic buildings; founding ICOMOS was the logical next step. ICOMOS then helped UNESCO to write the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

ICOMOS' MISSION: TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT

Our mission is to promote the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of monuments, built environments, and cultural heritage places. We play a major role in the development of standards of good practice, as well as in evolving, promoting and sharing ideas. We continue this through our advocacy work, ensuring that our knowledge of, and belief in the importance of cultural heritage has the greatest impact possible. ICOMOS is as such not only a key player in advocacy but also the meeting point of international expertise in the field.

Central to our efforts is our role as an Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee, working to implement the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

OUR VALUES: UNITING AROUND HERITAGE

1) Diversity and Interdisciplinarity

ICOMOS is made up of an enormously diverse range of heritage professionals, from civil servants to academic researchers to private sector employees. Our members work together in a spirit of collegiality, respecting one another's diverse professional and technical knowledge, across cultures and belief systems.

2) Impartiality

As an NGO, in all circumstances – and especially as one of the three World Heritage Convention Advisory Bodies – we rely on our members, whose professional experience and expertise, technical know-how and independence allow us to work with impartiality and according to a shared ethical code.

3) Exchanges and Solidarity

At ICOMOS, we endeavour to bring people and cultures together. This involves facilitating the work and movement of members in disadvantaged or crisis situations. During major natural disasters and conflicts, ICOMOS' experts and specialists are mobilised to develop emergency measures for preserving, conserving and restoring damaged or at-risk heritage.

4) Empowering the Next Generation

A key part of our mission at ICOMOS is to raise awareness of heritage and related challenges, and to exchange knowledge and know-how between generations. As such, we mentor emerging professionals, who are deeply involved with the issues at stake and in our different actions.

5) Access to Information

Free and unrestricted access to scientific knowledge is fundamental to good heritage conservation: ICOMOS' open access archive platform, PUBLICOMOS, enables this. Additionally, ICOMOS' Documentation Centre offers a wealth of documentary resources, with over 40,000 titles and 40,000 graphic documents, World Heritage documents, and more.



Understanding the ICOMOS Network

ICOMOS members are professionals dedicated to the conservation of cultural heritage. They are at the core of our international network of experts, which is organised around various complementary structures, each reflecting a distinct area of focus:

117 National Committees represent ICOMOS on the ground. They serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas among professionals on the organisation's doctrinal principles, as well as on the technical, scientific, legal and administrative issues relevant to each national context. Grouped into five global regions, these committees are coordinated by the ICOMOS Vice Presidents, who facilitate inter-regional exchanges and promote major events within their region.

Beyond this geographical structure, **31 International Scientific Committees** bring together professionals from ICOMOS' worldwide network to work together around specific thematic areas such as materials, heritage typologies and professional practices. As such, they are at the heart of scientific development and knowledge sharing, in order to advance heritage protection and management. Their mission is to produce authoritative knowledge on cultural heritage and contribute to strengthening professional standards and practices worldwide.

They address a wide range of topics, from Underwater to Polar and Aerospace heritage; Water, Wood, Stone or Earthen architecture; Legal issues or Economics of conservation, as well as Tourism, Landscapes or Historic villages.

Finally, the **International Working Groups** address cross-cutting priorities that involve the entire network, such as climate action, indigenous heritage, rights-based approaches, sustainable development goals, or the development of emerging professionals.

Key financials

The 2025 financial year closed with total income of €5.25 million and total expenditure of €5.02 million, resulting in a net surplus of €230,420.

This year-on-year increase requires careful reading. The sharp rise in activity-related revenues — from €2.49 million to €4.25 million — is largely attributable to the completion, in 2025, of several major multi-year international project partnerships. Under current accounting rules, the full value of such contracts is recognised only in the year in which the project concludes, regardless of its actual duration. This one-off convergence of project closures does not reflect a structural increase in ICOMOS’ annual resources, nor is it expected to recur at this level.

Core revenues remained broadly stable: UNESCO World Heritage advisory services and member contributions continue to form the backbone of the organisation’s operating model. Government subsidies decreased to €128,067, confirming the ongoing need to diversify funding sources.

ICOMOS proposes allocating the 2025 surplus to two priorities: supporting digital transformation and strengthening reserves, which remain limited in relation to the organisation’s commitments and operational needs. The 2026 budget anticipates a return to a tighter financial balance, underscoring the importance of sustained fundraising efforts and prudent resource management.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

In addition to its own operations, ICOMOS Headquarters holds and administers funds in custody on behalf of ICOMOS’ International Scientific Committees and Working Groups. As at 31 December 2025, these funds totalled €251,229. Used by the Committees to support their scientific activities — including conferences, publications, research — they are recorded on ICOMOS’ balance sheet but do not affect its income statement. This custodial role reflects the breadth and vitality of the ICOMOS expert network, as well as the organisation’s commitment to providing its volunteer-led Committees with a reliable institutional framework and support.

INCOME	2023	2024	2025
Revenues from activities	1,489,775	2,495,719	4,253,967
Unesco contracts	1,119,886	1,254,358	1,241,324
Advisory missions	271,756	227,074	221,385
Other services	98,133	1,014,287	2,791,258
Other revenues	1,064,378	1,145,920	921,328
Members contributions	474,616	616,619	651,099
Subsidies	223,954	211,223	128,067
Release of provisions	365,808	318,078	142,163
Financial revenues	48,752	61,172	75,332
Extraordinary revenues		22,341	2,217
TOTAL INCOME (A)	2,602,905	3,725,152	5,252,844

EXPENDITURES			
Operating costs	2,502,381	3,623,941	4,946,804
Personnel costs	803,204	898,446	1,094,439
Other operating costs	1,386,845	2,437,917	3,808,749
Provisions*	312,332	287,578	43,616
Financial charges	57,276	72,406	75,620
Extraordinary costs	5,315		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (B)	2,564,972	3,696,347	5,022,424

SURPLUS OR DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR (A)-(B)	37,933	28,805	230,420
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* Provisions include provisions for costs, for social contributions, for contingencies as well as amortisation and depreciation.

Network engagement and community building



Director General's letter

I joined ICOMOS as Director General in January 2026, succeeding Marie-Laure Lavenir, whose dedication carried this organisation through pivotal years. In my very first days, something deeply moving happened. From every region, in languages I do not speak, members I had never met sent spontaneous messages of welcome - far more than I could have anticipated, each one carrying a warmth that no organisational chart could convey.

In every encounter since — with archaeologists and architects, emerging professionals and senior experts, Board members and Scientific Committee chairs, World Heritage panel experts and advisors — I found people driven by a deeply personal passion and carrying high ambitions for heritage and for ICOMOS.

When I accompanied President Patrício in meetings with State Party delegations to UNESCO, I saw that conviction reflected back — in the recognition that ICOMOS commands, and the expectations that come with it. 2025 marked sixty years since ICOMOS was founded, and that founding impulse is unmistakably alive.

Behind the complexity of a global network spanning every geography, discipline, and culture, I found something remarkably simple: people who care.

That shared commitment deserves a matching ambition. My own is to harness our diversity and richness so that every action carries its full weight and every effort amplifies the next: turning field experience from a National Committee into a Heritage Alert that protects, the knowledge of a Scientific Committee into a policy position that persuades, shared expertise into standards that endure. That is, ultimately, the purpose of an international headquarters: to be the place where these connections happen, so that the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts.

The following chapter, organised around our core pillars of action, is an invitation to trace those connections. They are the thread that runs through everything ICOMOS accomplished in 2025 — and the foundation of everything we will build together.

«Behind the complexity of a global network of experts, something remarkably simple: people who care.»

2025 Annual General Assembly and Scientific Symposium



Lumbini, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1997, was chosen as the venue for the Scientific Symposium and the General assembly, in recognition of its profound cultural and symbolic significance.

ICOMOS extends its deepest gratitude to ICOMOS Nepal, and in particular to Gyanin Rai, President of the National Committee, as well as to Anie Joshi, Secretary, and Kai Weise, Advisor, for their invaluable efforts in ensuring the success of this event.

300

delegates
from over
50 countries

7

statutory
resolutions

241

submissions

150

accepted
abstracts

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The ICOMOS Annual General Assembly, Advisory Committee meetings, and Scientific Symposium were held in Lumbini, Nepal, from 11 to 19 October 2025.

The 2025 Assembly marked the culmination of ICOMOS' 60th anniversary celebrations: a special event featured a roundtable discussion on the organisation's past and future, followed by a celebratory dinner. Opening remarks by Advisory Committee President Kerime Danis highlighted six decades of achievements, while President Teresa Patrício and former President Toshiyuki Kono reflected on current challenges. Regional Vice Presidents also shared their perspectives, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to heritage conservation and international cooperation.

Two reports were presented to the Assembly, by the President and the Treasurer of ICOMOS. The President's report highlighted key topics addressed and efforts undertaken by the Board to strengthen ICOMOS' international visibility and influence. It also emphasized the Board's role in monitoring and responding to crises affecting cultural heritage and

National Committees, as well as its function as an Advisory Body to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and related 2025 activities. The Treasurer's report underlined the continued growth in membership, noting that international projects have become an increasingly significant and integral part of ICOMOS' activities.

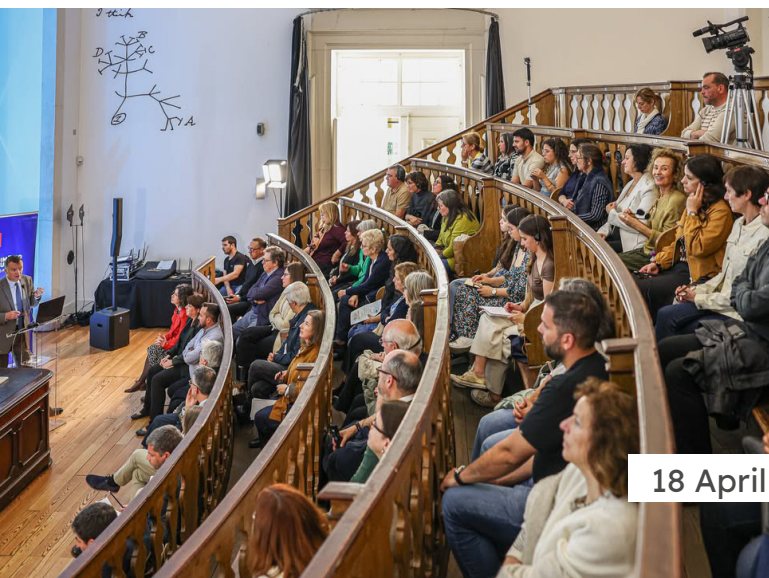
Finally, the General Assembly adopted seven statutory resolutions as well as revisions to the ICOMOS Ethical Principles. These updates strengthen guidance on members' responsibilities by reinforcing standards of respectful conduct, non-discrimination, cultural diversity, and appropriate behaviour toward staff.

SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

The event brought together a longstanding discussion on heritage perceptions—"The Sacred Garden of Lumbini: Perceptions of Buddha's Birthplace"—and the recently adopted ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan 2024–2027 on Disaster Resilient Heritage: Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

The Symposium explored these themes across three dedicated sessions:

1. "Navigating and Negotiating Conflict", which examined how heritage is both affected by and implicated in the evolving nature of armed conflict and hybrid warfare, including the weaponisation of cultural heritage and the need for updated strategies and tools.
2. "Withstanding the Forces of Nature for Conservation and Development of Heritage", which addressed how heritage sites can prepare for and respond to natural hazards and multi-hazard contexts, integrating tangible and intangible heritage, traditional knowledge, capacity building, and risk reduction approaches.
3. "Leveraging Heritage for Peace", which acknowledged the event's unique setting in Lumbini—the birthplace of the Buddha—and explored how heritage can contribute to fostering peace, non-violence, compassion, social justice, and inter-species well-being through panels, keynote speeches, and collective deliberations rather than conventional paper presentations. In keeping with the spirit of Lumbini, the President of ICOMOS Nepal, Gyanin Rai, delivered a statement on Heritage and Peace at the closing ceremony.



International Day for Monuments and Sites

18 April 2025

The 2025 edition of the International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS) focused on “Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 years of ICOMOS Actions”, under the overarching theme “Disaster and Conflict Resilient Heritage”.

With many heritage sites under significant threats from both natural or human-induced hazards, this year’s IDMS events emphasized the importance of preparedness, resilience and recovery for at-risk cultural resources.

Some of the celebrations included:

- annual awards and photography competitions (ICOMOS Costa Rica);
- webinars (ICOMOS ISCARSAH, National Committees of Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Uruguay);
- videos (ICOMOS Italy);
- the creation of local International Scientific Committees (ICORP Philippines);
- panel discussions and onsite events (ICOMOS Saudi Arabia, ICOMOS Türkiye);
- statements (ICOMOS Ukraine);
- reflections (ICOMOS Venezuela);
- and more.

ICOMOS thanks its network and all participants for having contributed to the success of the 2025 edition of the International Day for Monuments and Sites!



ICOMOS 2.0 New website and visual identity

Reimagining our identity,
expanding our reach

In April 2025, during the year of its 60th anniversary, ICOMOS launched its new website and visual identity. Conceived at a strategic moment in the organisation’s development, the redesign strengthens ICOMOS’ communications, on and offline branding, and better reflects its expanding international network, activities and global mission in the field of cultural heritage.

The new website offers a clearer, more contemporary and user-friendly experience, meeting modern standards in accessibility, performance, responsive design and multilingual management.

New features were introduced to better showcase ICOMOS’ international reach and expertise, including a global events calendar, an interactive map of ICOMOS’ presence across countries, a dedicated international projects section, a clearer World Heritage section, and improved news filtering. Together, these improvements make ICOMOS’ knowledge, initiatives and network more visible, accessible and connected.

The new visual identity guide preserves the recognisability of the ICOMOS brand, including its logo, while introducing a more confident, modern and flexible graphic style. New institutional and marketing materials were also developed to ensure a more consistent and professional visual presence across ICOMOS’ communication channels and activities.

Website
98,727
visitors
in 2025

Newsletter
23,918
suscribers

Social media
108,632
followers
(Facebook, Instagram,
Linkedin, X, YouTube)

Sharing knowledge



Launch of PUBLICOMOS

In February 2025, ICOMOS took a major step towards improving access to global heritage knowledge with the launch of PUBLICOMOS, its new digital documentation platform. Available in English, French, and Spanish, PUBLICOMOS brings together documents in more than 50 languages and provides a comprehensive catalogue of ICOMOS publications dating back to the organisation's establishment in 1965.

The platform centralizes printed and digital resources - including scientific publications, institutional documents, and professional references - making them easier to discover and use by specialists, researchers, heritage professionals and the wider public.

More than 15,000 references are available, including:

- 2900 full books
- 3900 book chapters
- 3800 journal articles
- 1600 conference items
- 200 doctrinal texts in 40+ languages

ENHANCING RESEARCH AND ACCESSIBILITY

PUBLICOMOS offers both simple and advanced search tools, enabling users to navigate the available extensive documentation efficiently.

A COLLABORATIVE AND EVOLVING RESOURCE

PUBLICOMOS has been designed as a dynamic resource that will continue to grow as digitization and cataloguing efforts advance. By encouraging contributions from the wider heritage community, it supports a more open and collaborative approach to knowledge sharing in the cultural heritage sector.

HISTORICAL ARCHIVES DATABASE

To mark its 60th anniversary, ICOMOS made a selection of its historical administrative archives available on PUBLICOMOS.

This addition includes more than 1,000 documents, such as:

- documents produced for ICOMOS General Assemblies, including activity reports, resolutions and minutes,
- newsletters,
- statutes of ICOMOS and its Committees,
- all ICOMOS annual reports since 2014.

Until November 2025, ICOMOS' historical archives could only be consulted by contacting the Documentation Centre or visiting ICOMOS headquarters in Charenton-le-Pont.

Publications



Verfahren und Mechanismen zur Stärkung des Welterbeschutzes = Procedures and methods to strengthen World Heritage protection. Edited by John Ziesemer and Jana Weydt. ICOMOS Germany, 2025. 2 vol.: 86 p (German and English edition) & 92 p. (all-German edition). (Elektronische Publikation, 12). ISBN 978-3-00-085268-8 [English, German]

Contents: Proceedings of a conference organized by ICOMOS Germany on 8 November 2024 at denkmal 2024, a European biennial trade fair in Leipzig for conservation, restoration and historic building renovation.



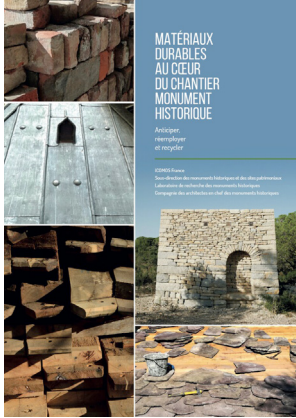
Künstliche Intelligenz und Denkmalpflege: Kulturerbe schützen, Innovation fördern. Edited by John Ziesemer. ICOMOS Germany, 2025. (Elektronische Publikation, 13). 72 p. ISBN 978-3-00-085269-5 [German]

Contents: Proceedings of an online workshop organized on 6 October 2025 by ICOMOS Germany with the Association of Heritage Authorities of the German States on the topic of artificial intelligence in monument conservation.



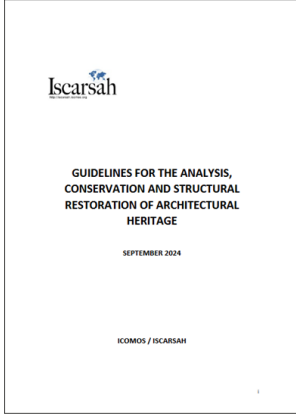
Reporte: Cumbre internacional ICAHM 2025, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile. ICAHM, 2025. 30 p. [Spanish]

Contents: Report of 2025 ICAHM international Summit on 8-16 May 2025.



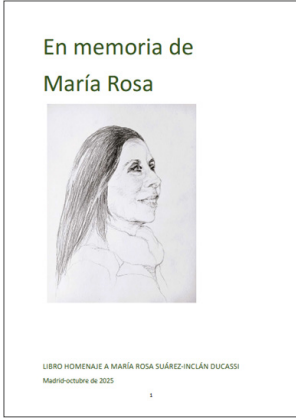
Matériaux durables au cœur du chantier monument historique : anticiper, réemployer et recycler. Edited by Éric Pallot, Chloé Mirouze, Isabelle Chave et al. ICOMOS France, 2025. 263 p. (Les Cahiers d'ICOMOS France, 35). [French]

Contents: Proceedings of a conference organized on 6-7 February 2025 by ICOMOS France and partners about sustainability on restoration sites.



Guidelines for the analysis, conservation and structural restoration of architectural heritage. ISCARSAH, 2024. 28 p. [English]

Contents: Report of 2025 ICAHM international Summit on 8-16 May 2025.



En memoria de María Rosa: libro homenaje a María Rosa Suárez-Inclán Ducassí. Edited by Cristóbal Vallhonrat Anduiza and Ángela Rojas Ávalos. ICOMOS Spain, 2025. 112 p. [Spanish]

Contents: A tribute to María Rosa Suárez-Inclán Ducassí, a leading figure in the defence of cultural heritage in Spain and internationally, former President of ICOMOS Spain and first President of the International Scientific Committee on Cultural Routes (CIIC).

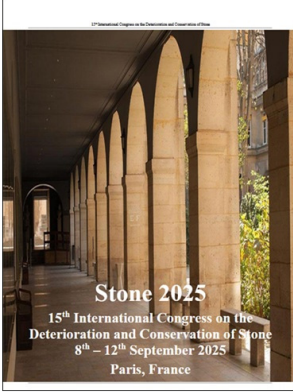
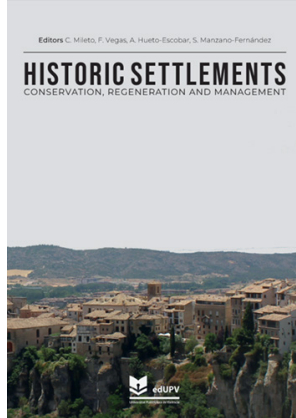


Barrier analysis: identifying views on hindrances to the retrofitting of historic buildings. Authored by Philipp Hesse, Luka Nedzbala, Faye Nzegang, Franziska Haas, Yann Grandgirard, Gustaf Leijonhufvud. FuturHist consortium, 2005. 87 p.

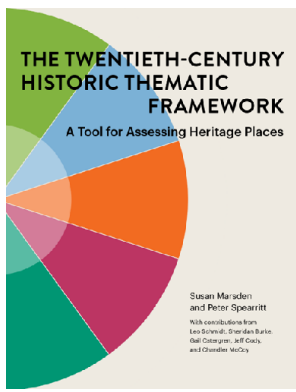
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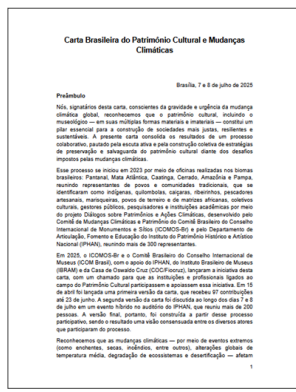
HERITAGE2025 International Conference on Earthen and Vernacular Heritage: Conservation, Adaptive Reuse and Urban Regeneration. Proceedings. Vol. 1. Vernacular heritage. Documentation, conservation and adaptive reuse; Vol. 2. Earthen heritage. Conservation, adaptative reuse and sustainable design ; Vol. 3. Historic settlements. Conservation, regeneration and management. Edited by Camilla Mileto, Fernando Vegas López-Manzanares, Alicia Hueto Escobar, Sergio Manzano Fernández. Universitat Politècnica de València, 2025. 3 vol., 1193 p. ISBN 978-84-1396-310-5 (full series) [English]



Stone 2025: proceedings of the 15th International congress on the deterioration and conservation of stone. Edited by Beatriz Menéndez, Julie Désamaud, Philippe Bromblet et al. CY Cergy Paris Université & Koninklijk Instituut voor het Kunstpatrimonium / Institut royal du Patrimoine artistique, ICOMOS, Centre interdisciplinaire de conservation et de restauration du patrimoine, Laboratoire de recherche des monuments historiques & Sorbonne Université, 2026. 2 vol., 1001 p. ISBN 978-2-930054-47-6 [English]



The twentieth-century historic thematic framework: a tool for assessing heritage places. Authored by Sheridan Burke, Jeff Cody, Chandler McCoy, Gail Ostergren, Leo Schmidt. Revised edition by Susan Marsden and Peter Spearritt. Getty Conservation Institute, 2024. 210 p. ISBN 978-1-937433-84-0 (online resource), 978-1-937433-83-3 (print on demand) [English; translations available in Arabic, French and Spanish]



Carta brasileira do patrimônio cultural e mudanças climáticas = Brazilian charter on cultural heritage and climate change = Carta brasileña del patrimonio cultural y cambio climático. ICOMOS Brazil & ICOM Brazil & Instituto Brasileiro de Museus & Casa de Oswaldo Cruz & Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional. 61 p. [English, Spanish, Portuguese]

Contents: A 2024-2025 partnered initiative of the ICOMOS-Brazil Climate Change and Heritage Committee, this charter was built through a consultative and participatory process. It involved workshops across different biomes, an open public consultation phase, and the endorsement of more than 200 institutions.



Baku declaration on the recognition, safeguarding, and transmission of the heritage of pastoralist transhumance. ICOMOS & State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2025. 8 p. [English]

Contents: Adopted during the Transhumance Landscapes of Global Importance conference held in Baku on 23-24 June 2025, this declaration is a call to action for all actors in the complex and multi-layered governance networks across all countries to sharpen their focus on understanding and valuing the heritage of pastoralist transhumance and how it has shaped landscapes and societies.



First ICOMOS Scientific Symposium of the Americas

Beyond Borders

On 17 November 2025, the ICOMOS Scientific Symposium of the Americas opened, marking the organization's first-ever cross-border scientific gathering in the Americas. Held across Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, and San Diego, California, USA, the event brought together more than 300 participants from 17 countries, including researchers, practitioners, community representatives, and public officials.

Over 2 days, more than 40 scientific papers were presented on subjects such as:

- Urban heritage and historic centres;
- Cultural and sacred landscapes;
- Community participation and resilience;
- Transborder and shared heritage;
- Public policy and cultural governance;
- Gastronomy, identity, and foodscapes;
- Indigenous and Afro-descendant cultural expressions;
- Climate-related risks and heritage vulnerability;
- Memory, territory, and postcolonial perspectives.

The symposium resulted in the launch of three important initiatives and commitments: the Hemispheric Research Initiative, the Culture & Climate in the Americas Manifesto-Letter and the Ensenada-San Diego Charter.

THE HEMISPHERIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE

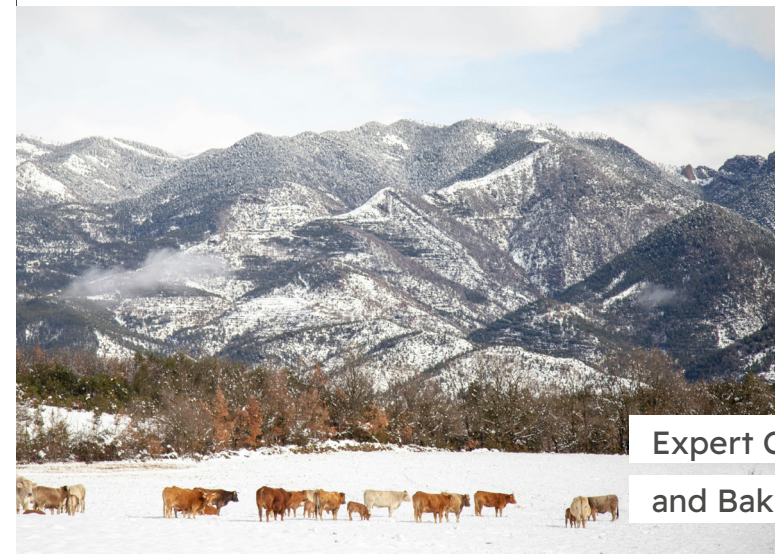
Developed within the ICOMOS University Forum for Latin America, the initiative will advance a comparative, transnational examination of how narratives of national heritage have shaped political identities across the continent.

THE CULTURE & CLIMATE IN THE AMERICAS MANIFESTO-LETTER

The National Committees of ICOMOS in the Americas called for the creation of an Inter-American Working Group, bringing together Committees from North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Its aim is to develop a unified hemispheric position on cultural heritage and the climate crisis.

THE ENSENADA - SAN DIEGO CHARTER/CARTA DE ENSENADA-SAN DIEGO

Presented by the Presidents of ICOMOS Mexico and ICOMOS USA, the charter constitutes a landmark agreement for cooperation in the Americas. The Presidents acknowledged the historical, cultural and archaeological ties that connect the Americas and the importance of enhancing international cooperation in cultural and natural heritage preservation and collaborative research. Finally, they called on countries to incorporate shared memories into their public policies.



World Heritage Transhumance Initiative

Expert Conference
and Baku Declaration

Led by ICOMOS in collaboration with the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, this initiative aims to raise awareness of the cultural and historical value of transhumance, engaging heritage professionals, policymakers, and the general public in its preservation and sustainable management.

TRANSHUMANCE LANDSCAPES OF GLOBAL IMPORTANCE | EXPERTS CONFERENCE

Held in Baku in June 2025, this international event was a key component of the ICOMOS World Heritage Transhumance Initiative.

ICOMOS convened specialists, institutional partners, and representatives of pastoral communities to advance the recognition and safeguarding of transhumance as a living heritage of global significance. The conference focused on landscapes shaped by pastoralist transhumance, examining examples across different regions of the world and highlighting the urgent need for their identification, safeguarding and sustainable development in the face of challenges posed by climate change and socio-economic transformation.

The event gathered specialists from leading international organizations (ICOMOS, FAO, IUCN, UN Environment Programme), scientists from research institutes and universities as well as experts from Austria, Benin, China, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Mongolia, Montenegro, Spain, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States and Uzbekistan

BAKU DECLARATION

The conference culminated in the adoption of the Baku Declaration reaffirming a collective commitment to identifying, protecting, and promoting transhumance landscapes worldwide. It builds on the rich discussions, insights and contributions of participants, including the ICOMOS project team and core experts, keynote speakers, poster authors, national representatives and representatives of the IUCN, FAO, the Carpathian Convention and the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists Global Alliance.

The Baku Declaration calls on actors across governance networks worldwide to better understand and value pastoralist transhumance heritage. It urges support for the documentation, safeguarding and transmission of transhumance knowledge and landscapes to future generations.



Stone Conference

From 8 to 12 September 2025, the 15th International Congress on the Deterioration and Conservation of Stone took place in Paris. The quadrennial event brought together the world-wide community of researchers, site managers and practitioners working on the conservation of cultural stone structures and objects. More than 290 participants from 36 countries travelled to France to attend the conference.

CONFERENCE THEMES AND KEY ISSUES

The scientific programme addressed the conservation of inorganic building materials (stone, mortars, artificial stones, bricks, earth, and more). A central objective of this edition was to bridge scientific advances with practical applications in conservation. The conference was structured around 6 themes:

- Climate change and risk assessment,
- Characterization and investigation methods,
- Digitalization and AI,
- Resilient and sustainable conservation,
- Holistic approach of built heritage conservation,
- Alteration mechanisms and conservation treatments.

STONE 2025 PROCEEDINGS

The congress featured 84 oral presentations and 120 poster presentations centred around the 6 conference themes. These contributions were brought together in the Stone 2025 Proceedings, a 1,001 page conference volume published by the Royal Institute of Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA), in collaboration with Cergy Paris Université and ICOMOS.

BACKGROUND AND PARTNERS

This landmark event held special significance for the field: it marked the congress' return to France for the first time since its inaugural edition in Paris in 1972, and brought together conservators, researchers, and heritage professionals from across the world — including a strong cohort of emerging practitioners, a testament to the vitality and future of stone conservation.

ICOMOS Headquarters supported the organisation of the conference in close coordination with the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Stone (ISCS), which served as a lead partner.

The Stone 2025 Conference was supported by:

- Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine,
- DIM Pamir (Domaine de recherche et d'Innovation Majeur),
- RILEM (International Union of Laboratories and Experts in Construction Materials, Systems and Structures),
- CY Advanced Studies Institute of Cergy Paris Université,
- LRMH (Laboratoire de Recherche des Monuments Historiques),
- CIRP (Centre Interdisciplinaire de Conservation et de Restauration du Patrimoine), and
- Sorbonne Université.



International Conference: Rethinking the future of the Alhambra

20 years of the Master Plan
and 40 years as a World Heritage Site

Co-directed by Antonio Peral López, Head of the Conservation and Protection Service of the Alhambra and Generalife Council, and Celia Martínez Yáñez, ICOMOS Board member, the conference, held in December 2025, provided leading international experts with a platform to discuss current challenges in the management of the Alhambra and Generalife Monumental Complex and World Heritage site. In early 2026, the Alhambra will begin preparing the new master plan that will set its course for the next decade and replace the previous planning document, which established guidelines for the period 2007 - 2020.

The event aimed to support a new phase of strategic planning, drawing on the expertise of leading international conservation experts. Discussions focused on the application of international conservation standards, sustainability, institutional cooperation, heritage impact assessment, and the impact of tourism on site conservation and management.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ICOMOS

- Celia Martínez Yáñez (ICOMOS Board member): The Alhambra's Heritage Management: 1830-2025;
- HRH Princess Dana Firas (ICOMOS Vice President): Funding, International Cooperation & Institutional Collaboration for the Protection of Cultural Heritage;

- Riin Alatalu (ICOMOS Vice President): The International Framework for Protection: Inspiration, Aspirations and Trends II: The 5Cs and Their Practical Application: Case Studies;
- Nicholas Clarke (ICOMOS World Heritage Advisor): Heritage Impact Assessment of World Heritage Properties: Case Studies and Global Challenges;
- Toshiyuki Kono (ICOMOS Honorary President): Four Perspectives on the Authenticity of Cultural Heritage from the Point of View of the Heritage Ecosystem;
- Teresa Patrício (ICOMOS President): Monitoring the State of Conservation of World Heritage Properties: The Role of ICOMOS;
- Mónica Luengo Añón (Honorary Member of ICOMOS IFLA, the International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes): The Challenges of Managing World Heritage Sites: Paseo del Prado and El Buen Retiro, Landscape of Arts and Letters; The Challenges of managing World Heritage sites: Management plans for World Heritage sites: implementation and current status.

Advising on World Heritage



ICOMOS and World Heritage

Adopted in 1972, the World Heritage Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (known as the World Heritage Convention) is an international agreement that seeks to preserve collectively the heritage of Outstanding Universal Value so it can be passed on to future generations. Through the Convention, 196 countries (or “State Parties”) have pledged to identify, protect, conserve and preserve the World Heritage properties located within their territory.

ICOMOS’ ROLE AS AN ADVISORY BODY TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

As an Advisory Body officially designated in the Convention, ICOMOS provides expert guidance to the World Heritage Committee, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and States Parties on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention for cultural sites, as well as for mixed sites.

To carry out these tasks, ICOMOS draws upon the expertise of its 12,000 members, through its National and International Scientific Committees. ICOMOS’ expert pool, spanning diverse disciplines, cultural backgrounds, and institutions with balanced geographical representation from 5 continents, ensures that World Heritage nominations and state of conservation reports are reviewed with the rigour and impartiality they deserve.

ICOMOS also works in close collaboration with its two sister Advisory Bodies: ICCROM (International Centre for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage) and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

ICOMOS World Heritage Evaluation Unit

Evaluation* of all the cultural and mixed properties that have been nominated by States Parties for inscription on the World Heritage List.

Advice to States Parties and the World Heritage Committee on all aspects of World Heritage, including potential nominations and the management and conservation of World Heritage properties.

Support of heritage practitioners in the protection and management of World Heritage properties through capacity-building programmes and workshops.

Development of World Heritage resources: reports, manuals and Thematic Studies. Engagement in various projects and academic reflections related to the World Heritage Convention.

ICOMOS World Heritage Advisory and Monitoring Unit

Monitoring the state of conservation of the cultural and mixed World Heritage properties that are inscribed on the World Heritage List.

*Each nomination dossier mobilises an average of 40 international experts.

2025 key figures

EXPERT INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD HERITAGE PROCESSES

- **68 ICOMOS experts** working on the conservation of inscribed properties,
- **47 on-site missions** undertaken by ICOMOS experts,
- **59 consultations** with ICOMOS National Committees and International Scientific Committees.

WORLD HERITAGE EVALUATION

- **2 Tentative List revisions:** at the request of a State Party, this advice provides a forecast of the properties that a State Party may decide to submit for inscription in the next five to ten years,
- **5 Upstream Processes:** at the request of a State Party, this advice provides advance support in the form of consultation, analysis and recommendations, directly to States Parties prior to the preparation or submission of a nomination,
- **31 Preliminary Assessments:** a new mandatory desk-based process that allows the State Party to seek advice on whether the site has potential to justify Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) prior to the submission of a nomination,
- **25 Evaluations** of cultural and mixed nominations to the World Heritage List, leading to the inscription of 22 new monuments and sites on the World Heritage list by the 47th World Heritage Committee in July 2025 (21 cultural and 1 mixed sites) in 22 countries.

WORLD HERITAGE ADVISORY AND MONITORING

- **178 Reports on the monitoring of the State of Conservation (SOC):** prepared in the context of the Reactive Monitoring process, which is the reporting by the Secretariat, other sectors of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties that are under threat,
- **146 Technical reviews:** a desk-based assessment of a proposed project and its potential impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, based on the documentation provided. It also offers advice to the State Party on the next advisable steps to avoid adverse impacts,
- **5 Desired State of Conservation Reports (DSOCR),** which are the defined state of conservation that a property must reach in order to demonstrate that it is no longer threatened by serious and specific danger, and to enable its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Introducing the World Heritage Preliminary Assessment

WHAT IS THE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT?

The Preliminary Assessment is a new mandatory phase of the evaluation procedure. It was introduced to act as an early filter to save time, money, and efforts for the States Parties, the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory Bodies, while raising the overall quality of nomination dossiers.

It is a desk-based review-only process that allows States Parties to engage in an enhanced, early dialogue with the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention, such as ICOMOS. The early advice provided helps to determine the feasibility of a potential nomination. As a result, States Parties can focus their time and resources on the properties that have the greatest potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value. ICOMOS is responsible for the Preliminary Assessment of cultural and mixed properties, the latter on a joint basis with IUCN.

The process was decided upon by the World Heritage Committee in 2021, with the first cycle taking place in 2023-2024 on a voluntary basis. From February 2027 onwards, all nomination dossiers submitted to the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO, and to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation, must have undergone the Preliminary Assessment process.

A 12-MONTH PROCESS

Step 1: Submission of Preliminary Assessment Requests and Follow-Ups

The process starts with the submission of a Preliminary Assessment request by the State Party. This document is more succinct than a full nomination dossier, focusing on key aspects such as the initial reasons why a potential nominated property could be considered globally significant and which World Heritage criteria could potentially apply.

During this time, various exchanges are held between ICOMOS and the State Party to encourage a constructive dialogue.

Step 2: Desk Reviews and Joint ICOMOS-IUCN Panel

The Preliminary Assessment is carried out on the basis of independent desk reviews supplied by international experts. ICOMOS also consults the relevant ICOMOS National Committees and International Scientific Committees. ICOMOS' final recommendations are determined at the Joint ICOMOS-IUCN Preliminary Assessment Panel

Step 3: Final Preliminary Assessment Report

ICOMOS' Preliminary Assessment report is then delivered to the State Party. This report includes guidance on whether or not the property could have the potential to demonstrate OUV, and how it might do so, or if further exploratory work might be needed. It also provides advice on the next steps to be taken by the State Party in order to develop a robust nomination dossier.

The report is not published unless the State Party decides to submit a nomination. The Preliminary Assessment report is valid for 5 years. If the State Party does not submit a full nomination dossier within this timeframe, a new Preliminary Assessment request must be made.

Protecting endangered heritage



Heritage Alerts

ICOMOS Heritage Alerts publicise threats to the conservation of cultural heritage in order to promote solutions that preserve heritage at risk. Issued selectively where urgent action is needed, they help raise awareness and support for threatened places.

The situations described reflect conditions at the time the alerts were issued and may have since evolved.

ATAKÖY HOUSING ESTATE (PHASES I-II), ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE | 20 MARCH 2025

Following the recent demolition of one of its housing blocks (F-Block), the Ataköy Housing Estate (Phases I-II) was at serious risk of irreversible loss when ICOMOS and its International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage (ISC20C) issued a Heritage Alert.

ICOMOS urged the relevant authorities in Türkiye to take immediate measures to safeguard the Ataköy Housing Estate and recommended:

- listing Ataköy Housing Estate (Phases I-II) as an urban site in the Turkish national inventory, to ensure its future development and preservation would be well managed;
- developing conservation and adaptation guidelines in accordance with international heritage principles, such as the Venice Charter and the Madrid-New Delhi Document, to guide sustainable preservation efforts;
- formally recognizing Ataköy as an integral part of Istanbul's urban landscape in urban legislation, master plans, and planning strategies.

ÉGLISE SAINTE-MARIE, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA | MAY-NOVEMBER 2025

In May 2025, ICOMOS and ICOMOS Canada called on the Canadian Federal Government, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Municipality of Clare to take immediate and collaborative action to prevent the threatened demolition of the former Église Sainte-Marie, a cultural icon of Acadian identity that had been desacralized in 2023.

Following the ICOMOS Heritage Alert, the Association Sainte-Marie Héritage et Développement (ASMHD) launched a petition that gathered approximately 1,340 signatures and secured a \$50,000 grant through the John Bragg Award for Atlantic Canada to support the high-resolution digital scanning of the church. In parallel, volunteers led an operation to clean the building and make it a safer working environment.

As a result of these efforts, Nova Scotia authorities halted all demolition plans by maintaining the designation of the Église Sainte-Marie under the Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act in November 2025. The ASMHD is now planning to transform the Église Sainte-Marie into a museum dedicated to the history of the Acadian civilisation.



Myanmar

ICOMOS, UNESCO Bangkok
and SEAMEO-SPAFA joint
post-earthquake missions

Following the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar in March, significant damage was recorded at hundreds of cultural heritage sites, including sites on Myanmar’s Tentative List for World Heritage nomination.

In response, ICOMOS, with UNESCO Bangkok and the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMO-SPAFA), organised two joint missions conducted from 14-21 July and 28 August-4 September, financially supported by ICOMOS and the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE MISSIONS

Given the scale of damage, the missions aimed to strengthen national capacities for preparedness, response and recovery of Myanmar’s cultural sector.

Their findings were intended to inform both national and international strategies for heritage recovery and contribute to the wider UN multi-sector assessment process.

Key activities included:

- Damage surveys,
- Emergency stabilization and weather protection measures,
- Demonstrations of documentation and salvage techniques for local teams,
- Structural inspections,
- Technical consultations to review findings and recommended next steps.

ICOMOS experts, Arun Menon (ICOMOS India) and Kai Weise (ICOMOS Nepal) contributed their expertise during on-site visits to more than 30 key sites.

EMERGENCY HERITAGE RESPONSE TRAINING

Prior to these joint missions, ICOMOS delivered an emergency training programme in April 2025 to equip local professionals with essential knowledge and tools for damage assessment, documentation and initial stabilization. Zeynep Gül Ünal, President of ICOMOS ICORP (International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness) presented international guidelines and emergency response protocols for safeguarding heritage in natural disaster contexts.

The training was organised in close coordination with GEA SAR, ICOMOS Myanmar and the Turquoise Mountain Organization.



Historic Centre of Odesa, Ukraine

Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS
Technical Assistance Missions

Funded by the World Heritage Fund and the Government of Japan, these missions formed part of the UNESCO Emergency Assistance Programme for Ukraine, a multi-sectoral initiative launched to protect Ukraine’s cultural heritage from the threats posed by the ongoing war.

PRELIMINARY FIELD MISSION: 17-20 FEBRUARY 2025

Following two preparatory online working sessions with Ukrainian heritage stakeholders held between December 2024 and January 2025, this four-day UNESCO/ICOMOS mission addressed the management structure of the World Heritage Property “The Historic City Centre of Odesa”, with particular attention to the risks and issues affecting the site. It aimed to strengthen protection strategies, through the development of an Emergency Preparedness Plan and emergency response protocols.

ICOMOS experts Katarzyna Piotrowska (Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites), Zeynep Gül Ünal (Disaster Reduction and Emergency Preparedness), Pierre Smars (Conservation of Historic Buildings) and Gráinne Shaffrey (Urban Morphology and Historic Centres) provided technical guidance and recommendations to national and local stakeholders involved in the conservation and management of World Heritage Sites. Their input was directed in particular towards improving the effectiveness of the draft Management Plan.

SECOND MISSION: 23-27 JUNE 2025

The second five-day technical assistance mission built on the outcomes of four online workshops, held between December 2024 and May 2025, as well as on the preliminary field mission to Odesa.

Its objectives were to:

- present draft recommendations and guidelines for revising the Management Plan, including an Emergency Preparedness Plan for the property;
- build capacity among Ukrainian stakeholders to carry out this revision;
- support the establishment of the Desired State of Conservation and a Programme of Corrective Measures (DSOCR).

Zeynep Gül Unal, Gráinne Shaffrey, Katarzyna Piotrowska, and Nicholas Clarke (ICOMOS World Heritage Advisor) delivered presentations and facilitated workshops for:

- the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communication,
- Odesa City Council and the Odesa Regional State Administration,
- the National Union of Architects of Ukraine,
- the Odesa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture,
- Emergency Response Agencies,
- the Civil Protection Service, and
- ICOMOS Ukraine.

Statements



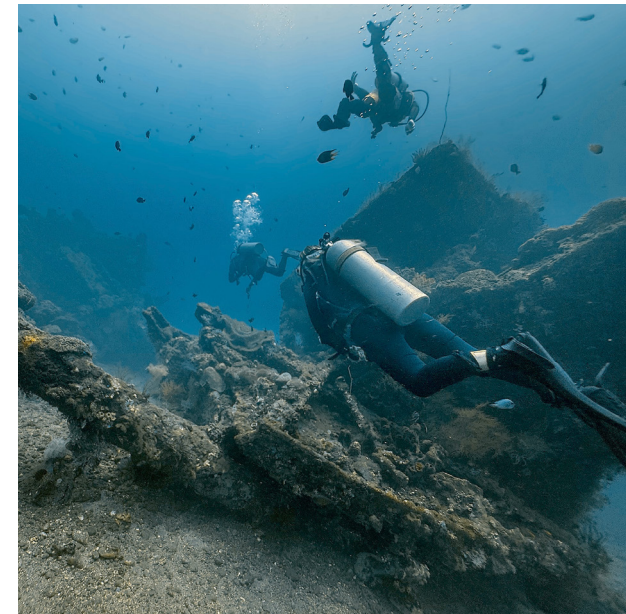
In 2025, ICOMOS issued and joined statements addressing urgent threats to cultural heritage, from conflict-related destruction and displacement to environmental risks and proposed legislation affecting protected sites. These statements form part of ICOMOS's wider advocacy to raise awareness, share expertise, and support action to safeguard endangered heritage.

GAZA AND THE WEST BANK **September 2025**

In September 2025, ICOMOS called for an immediate stop to the targeted destruction of cultural heritage and extreme violation of human rights in Gaza, as well as to the attacks on villages, forced displacement, and the appropriation of archaeological sites in the West Bank that are endangering millennia-old tangible and intangible heritage.

As the conflict continues to take lives, destroy futures, and destabilize the region and our world, ICOMOS insists on respect for the protection granted to civilians and to cultural heritage under international humanitarian law. Intense bombardment has caused destruction to archaeological and cultural heritage sites in Gaza, alongside the tragic loss of life and mass displacement of civilians, with severe consequences for intangible cultural heritage. Forced displacement and attacks on historic villages, their communities and traditional landscapes in the West Bank risks erasure of millennia-old agricultural practices and village life.

See full statement on our website.



CONFRONTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT OF POTENTIALLY POLLUTING SHIPWRECKS **June 2025**

In a joint statement with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), ICOMOS drew attention to the environmental and cultural risks posed by more than 8,500 potentially polluting shipwrecks worldwide, most dating from 20th-century conflicts and containing millions of tons of pollutants. Accelerated by climate change, the structural deterioration of these vessels poses a serious threat to marine ecosystems, underwater cultural heritage, and the Blue Economies that depend on them.

ICOMOS and IUCN called on governments to monitor and assess potentially polluting shipwrecks, develop and share innovative tools and best practices for their strategic management, and remove pollutants from sunken vessels where feasible. They also urged the UN Environment Programme to work with governments and relevant agencies to develop shared guidelines and tools for assessing and mitigating pollution risks — while recognising that many of these wrecks are also maritime gravesites requiring particular sensitivity.

See full statement on our website.



DEFENDING BELGRADE'S MODERNIST LEGACY **November 2025**

ICOMOS joined Europa Nostra, DOCOMOMO International, and the Architects' Council of Europe in firmly opposing a proposed «Lex Specialis» law in Serbia that would enable the demolition of the Generalštab Modernist Complex in Belgrade to clear the way for a large-scale hotel and real estate development. Designed by architect Nikola Dobrović and legally protected as a cultural monument of national importance, the complex is a landmark of post-war European modernism.

The four organisations called for the immediate withdrawal of the draft law, the annulment of government decision stripping the site of its protected status, the publication of all agreements and contracts concerning the site, and the launch of a transparent, inclusive process for the complex's revitalisation. This case has also drawn attention at the highest European levels, including through a resolution adopted by the European Parliament in May 2025.

See full statement on our website.

Shaping international cultural policy



Championing cultural heritage
on the global stage

Mondiacult 2025

BUILDING THE CASE: REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Ahead of the conference, ICOMOS contributed to UNESCO-led regional consultations in November 2024 and February 2025, coordinated by Naima Benkari, Focal Point of the ICOMOS Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDGWG). ICOMOS Regional Vice Presidents, as well as María Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez (President ICOMOS Mexico - for the Americas) led respective regional dialogues, supported by SDGWG members, emerging professionals, and representatives from the ICOMOS Rights-Based Approach Working Group (OCD-RBA-WG) and ICOMOS Indigenous Heritage Working Group (IHWG).

The consultations addressed several key priorities:

- the recognition of culture through a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 UN agenda;
- the need for climate adaptation, building on ICOMOS' 2020 declaration and Climate Adaptation Toolkit;
- the protection of heritage in conflict and disaster zones, including Palestine, Ukraine, and Asia-Pacific; and the ethical use of digital technologies.

Prior to the conference, ICOMOS President Teresa Patrício and Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) Focal Point Ave Paulus co-authored UNESCO's thematic paper on culture and climate, while Naima Benkari represented ICOMOS at the 6th UCLG Culture Summit, further strengthening ICOMOS' engagement in global conversations.

AT THE CONFERENCE: THREE SIDE EVENTS, ONE NETWORK

During MONDIACULT, ICOMOS organised and contributed to three side events. The CAWG co-organised 'Culture for Trust', where Ave Paulus and Andrew Potts explored how heritage and culture build community resilience in times of crisis.

ICOMOS World Heritage Advisor Leticia Leitão presented the Connecting Practice project at the 'Culture and Nature' side event.

The flagship 'Living Heritage' side event on 1 October was jointly organised by the SDGWG, CAWG, IHWG, and OCA-RBA Working Group. Opened by President Teresa Patrício and moderated by Naima Benkari, it featured presentations by ICOMOS members on indigenous community resilience, vernacular architecture, and intergenerational knowledge.





A voice for heritage

G20

ICOMOS IN THE G20 CULTURE WORKING GROUP

Under the South African Presidency, the G20 Culture Working Group met four times between February and October 2025, bringing together G20 member states, invited countries, and organisations including ICOMOS, ICOM, WIPO, Interpol, and the African World Heritage Fund. Its discussions focused on 4 priorities: the safeguarding and restitution of cultural heritage; integrating cultural and socio-economic policies; harnessing digital technologies for culture; and the intersection of culture and climate change.

ICOMOS was represented by Laura Robinson, ICOMOS South Africa member and Focal Point for the Our Common Dignity – Rights-Based Approaches Working Group (OCD-RBA), with support from Thabo Manetsi, President of ICOMOS South Africa. Overall coordination of ICOMOS’ input was led by Adriana Carreaga, ICOMOS Board member, drawing on contributions from the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDGWG), the Climate Action Working Group (CAWG), the OCD-RBA Working Group, and International Scientific Committees including those on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) and Training (CIF).

ICOMOS’ KEY CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE KWADUKUZA DECLARATION

The KwaDukuza Declaration, adopted by G20 Ministers, calls for the full recognition of culture as a transformative driver of the Sustainable Development Goals and its inclusion as a standalone goal in a possible post-2030 development agenda. ICOMOS commends its emphasis on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, climate adaptation grounded in cultural practices, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence in the cultural sector.

In its formal statement to the Ministerial Meeting, ICOMOS called for internationally harmonised, heritage-sensitive indicators to measure culture’s contributions to the SDGs, supporting tools such as the UNESCO Culture 2030 Indicators. It also advocated for the development of climate risk assessment tools for heritage sites, building on collaborative work by ICOMOS, ICCROM, and UNESCO and supported the Declaration’s positions on repatriation and restitution of cultural objects and the development of the UNESCO/Interpol database on stolen cultural property.



Heritage at the heart of Climate Action

COP30

At the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30), held in Belém, Brazil, ICOMOS reinforced its position as a leading advocate for the integration of cultural heritage into global climate policy. Through its Climate Action Working Group (CAWG), its Brazilian National Committee, and a broad coalition of partners, ICOMOS contributed to a landmark outcome: the formal inclusion of heritage and cultural practices in the COP30 Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework.

LANDMARK POLICY OUTCOMES: GGA AND THE ACTION AGENDA

The COP30 Global Goal on Adaptation decision introduced 5 indicators to track the protection and climate adaptation of heritage sites and cultural practices. This outcome is a direct result of 5 years of sustained advocacy by culture and heritage partners since COP26, with ICOMOS playing a strategic role through the Heritage Adapts to Climate Action (HACA) initiative.

For the first time, cultural heritage also featured in the COP30 Action Agenda under Activation Group 19 (Culture, Cultural Heritage Protection and Climate Action).

The ICOMOS CAWG contributed to three Plans to Accelerate Solutions (PAS):

- the Heritage Adapts campaign (Preserving Legacies),
- the Heritage Now campaign (Built Buildings Lab), and
- the Plan to Accelerate Cultural Heritage Considerations in National Adaptation Plans (Brazilian Ministry of Culture and GFCBCA).

ICOMOS CAWG also co-signed the final joint letter to the COP30 Presidency, which resulted in heritage-based Plans to Accelerate Solutions being formally acknowledged. CAWG Focal Point Ave Paulus also represented ICOMOS at the Third High-Level Ministerial of the Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action.

EVENTS, PARTNERSHIPS AND AWARDS

ICOMOS CAWG co-organised an official UNFCCC side event with Architecture 2030 on climate-smart traditional buildings, and participated in nearly daily joint events with Architecture 2030, the International Union of Architects, and the Climate Heritage Network. Ave Paulus delivered the keynote at the first-ever UN Paris Committee on Capacity Building thematic day on Culture, Heritage & Arts. ICOMOS Brazil co-organised two seminars in the Green Zone and at the Amazon Museum, gathering members from Brazil, Argentina, and across Latin America, and launched the Brazilian Charter on Heritage in Climate Action.

A further highlight was the recognition of Preserving Legacies, a project in which ICOMOS is a founding partner, through the 2025 Local Adaptation Champions Award in the Science category by the Global Center on Adaptation.

Remembrances

In memory of members and colleagues of the ICOMOS network that have passed since September 2024

ANDREA BRUNO

Italy / Professor of Architectural Restoration; expert to ICOMOS

Professor at the Polytechnic Universities of Turin and Milan; Director of the International Centre for Conservation (Louvain); lecturer at ICCROM and consultant to UNESCO. Key contributions include major interventions in architectural and built heritage conservation, notably at Château de Rivoli, the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, and Fort Vauban (Nîmes).

OSKAR EMMENEGGER

Switzerland / Conservator of mural paintings; member of ICOMOS Switzerland

Professor at Vienna and Stuttgart State Academies of Fine Arts; expert affiliated with ETH Zurich. Internationally recognised for pioneering and advancing scientific methodologies in the conservation and restoration of mural and decorative painted surfaces within historic structures.

NIÉDE GUIDON

Brazil / Archaeologist; member of ICOMOS Brazil

Leading figure in archaeological research at Serra da Capivara National Park. Her work significantly contributed to redefining interpretations of early human settlement in the Piauí State. Founder of the Museum of the American Man and a key advocate for the safeguarding of archaeological heritage at national and international levels.

LEONARDO LUPIANO

Argentina / Architect; member of ICOMOS Argentina

Delegate for the Comahue–Patagonia Region in ICOMOS Argentina’s Federal Consultative Committee. Awarded the CICOP Lifetime Achievement Award (2023). Responsible for cultural interpretation and mediation at the Maritime Museum of Ushuaia, with a focus on heritage dissemination and territorial identity.

FRANK MATERO

United States / Architectural conservator; member of ICOMOS USA and International Scientific Committee on Archeological Heritage Management (ICAHM)

Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. Founder of research centres dedicated to heritage conservation and editor of Change Over Time. First architectural conservator appointed within the U.S. National Park Service. His work focused on conservation theory, material authenticity, and archaeological heritage management.

CHRISTOPHE MBIDA MINDZIÉ

Cameroon / Archaeologist; founding member of ICOMOS Cameroon

Director of Cultural Heritage at the Ministry of Culture of Cameroon; former Head of the Department of Arts and Archaeology at the University of Yaoundé I. Founding member of ICOMOS Cameroon, serving as First Vice-President and Acting President in 2024. His work contributes to national heritage governance and academic development in African archaeology.

PIERRE NOIRET

Belgium / Prehistorian; academic; member of ICOMOS Belgium

Specialist in Upper Palaeolithic archaeology. Directed excavations at Miłoc (Romania) and Trou Al’Wesse (Belgium). Collaborated with the Walloon Heritage Agency and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. Former research director at the University of Liège, with a focus on prehistoric settlement systems and material culture studies.

MICHELE PARADISO

Italy–Cuba / Architect; member of ICOMOS Cuba

Professor at the University of Florence. Active contributor to the conservation and rehabilitation of historic urban fabric in Havana. Major restoration projects include Cueto Palace Hotel, Convent of Las Teresas, the Customs Wharf, the former Regla maritime station, the Sarrá building, and the Malecón waterfront ensemble.

PATRICK SHAFFREY

Ireland / Architect and urban planner; member of ICOMOS Ireland

Recognised authority on urban heritage and planning policy in Ireland. Founder of professional training programmes in urban planning and first President of the Irish Planning Institute. His work focused on the protection of historic urban landscapes and sustainable urban development frameworks.

PIERRE-FRANÇOIS TOULZE

France / Heritage consultant ; member of ICOMOS France

Specialist in UNESCO World Heritage nomination processes and management planning. Consultant, journalist, and academic lecturer. Expertise in cultural heritage governance, heritage policy frameworks, and sustainable cultural tourism strategies.

LUIGI ZANGHERI

Italy / Architect; historian of landscape architecture; former President of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes (ISCCL)

Professor at the University of Florence. Specialist in historic landscapes, gardens, and cultural landscapes. Former President emeritus of the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno. Played a leading role in the inscription of the UNESCO World Heritage property “Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany”.

Thank you

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- AWHF (African World Heritage Fund),
- European Commission,
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- ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property),
- Ministry of Culture, France,
- NCHA (National Cultural Heritage Administration of China),
- National Geographic Society,
- State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

ICOMOS also expresses its deep gratitude to Marie-Laure Lavenir, who retired after 10 years as Director General, and to Henri Verrier, who retired after 37 years as Head of Finances, for their distinguished and committed contribution to the organisation. We extend to them our very best wishes for success and happiness in this new chapter.

Credits

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ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

A unique non-governmental, democratic, not-for-profit international organisation committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage.

ICOMOS was created in 1965 in Warsaw following the adoption the year before of the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, also known as the Venice Charter.

ICOMOS is dedicated to the development of common doctrines, the evolution and circulation of knowledge, the creation of improved conservation techniques, and the promotion of cultural heritage significance.

ICOMOS has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world.

As an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, ICOMOS evaluates nominations and advises on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

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